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**Studies in the News:
Environment, Growth Management and
Transportation Supplement**

Contents This Week

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

[Diesel emissions in Oakland raise cancer risk](#)
[Los Angeles air no longer the worst](#)
[People are dying from ozone](#)
[Port approves clean truck program](#)
[Sea salt worsens coastal air pollution](#)
[Dry weather helps beach pollution](#)
[Effects of warming on natural resources](#)
[Soot may play big role in climate change](#)
[Warming felt more in Western U.S.](#)
[White House report backs climate change warnings](#)
[Throw the big fish back](#)
[Court blocks Sierra logging plan](#)
[Reconstruction of Sudden Oak Death epidemic](#)
[Benefits and concerns with GHG offsets](#)
[Powerplant GHG emissions rising](#)
[Type of food critical for reducing carbon](#)
[Navy marine impact study](#)
[Court deals setback to Yosemite plan](#)
[Acidified water on continental shelf](#)
[Coastal waters show decline in contaminants](#)
[Conservation through the ballot box](#)
[Weedkiller disrupts human hormones](#)
[Regulating nanotechnology](#)
[Inconsistent water quality enforcement](#)
[No clear solution to border pollution](#)
[Water shortage guidebook](#)

[Hurricane spike isn't due to global warming](#)
[Not enough equipment, staff to fight fire](#)

TRANSPORTATION

[Reducing aviation emissions](#)
[Cycling in the Netherlands](#)
[Alcohol-related driving trends](#)
[Older drivers and cessation](#)
[Intergovernmental perspective on financing transportation](#)
[Assessing low-income transportation programs](#)
[Understanding travel decisions](#)
[Transportation and the U.S. economy](#)

Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261; csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR POLLUTION

Diesel Particulate Matter Health Risk Assessment for the West Oakland Community: Preliminary Summary of Results. By Pingkuan Di and others, California Air Resources Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) March 19, 2008. 48 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/communities/ra/westoakland/documents/draftsummary031908.pdf>

["Diesel emissions from trucks, machinery and other sources elevate the risk of premature death, cancer, asthma and other chronic diseases for more than 3 million people living in West Oakland and the surrounding region, according to the most detailed study yet on the issue. The two-year public health inquiry covered a large swath of the Bay Area -- an area of 3,800 square miles that is home to 3.1 million people. The residents had an elevated risk of cancer -- nearly 1,200 additional cancers per million people due to long-term exposure to diesel particulate matter than people living elsewhere. The study also found other considerable health problems resulting from exposure to port-related diesel pollution." San Francisco Chronicle (March 20, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-1985]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

AIR POLLUTION

State of the Air: 2008. By the American Lung Association. (The Association, New York, New York) May 2008. 204 p.

Full text at: <http://www.lungusa2.org/sota/SOTA2008.pdf>

["After nearly a decade at the top, the Los Angeles region has been 'bested' by the Pittsburgh metropolitan area for the No. 1 spot on the 'Top 10 U.S. Cities Most Polluted by Short-Term Particle Pollution.' But the region still was the worst offender in the nation for ozone levels and yearly overall particle pollution readings... The rest of the state did not fare well, either: Five of the eight metropolitan areas listed as most polluted by all three measures were from California. These included Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside and the Central Valley areas of Bakersfield, Fresno, Visalia-Porterfield and Hanford-Corcoran." Los Angeles Times (May 1, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2189]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Estimating Mortality Risk Reduction and Economic Benefits from Controlling Ozone Air Pollution. By the Committee on Estimating Mortality Risk Reduction Benefits from Decreasing Tropospheric Ozone Exposure, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) 2008.

["Concluding that smog is likely to be killing many people, a national panel of experts advised the Environmental Protection Agency to consider the economic value of lost lives when comparing the costs and benefits of setting new air pollution rules. Ozone, the main ingredient of smog, is a lung-scarring gas created

when fumes from vehicles, factories and consumer products react in the sun. Over the last two decades, many scientific studies have shown that on days when ozone or other air pollutants increase, deaths and hospitalizations from respiratory diseases and heart attacks rise. The Los Angeles Basin has the nation's worst ozone levels. The panel confirmed the link, finding 'strong evidence' that people are dying from breathing ozone." Los Angeles Times (April 24, 2008) 1.] Note: "Estimating Mortality Risk...." is available for loan.
[Request #S08-29-2158]

Book. 204 p.
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12198

Summary. 25 p.
http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12198&type=pdfxsum
[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Los Angeles Harbor Commission Approves Landmark Clean Truck Program: Press Release. By the Port of Los Angeles. AND: Port of Los Angeles Clean Truck Program. By the Boston Consulting Group. AND: Clean Air Action Plan - Clean Trucks Program. By the Operations Bureau and Finance & Administration Bureau, Port of Los Angeles. (The Port, San Pedro, California) March 2008.

["The Los Angeles Harbor Commission unanimously approved a clean air plan requiring shipping companies to buy and maintain a modernized fleet of big rigs and employ thousands of independent truckers who currently operate under contract.... The move launches a landmark program to reform a broken freight hauling system and accelerate the replacement of a fleet of 16,800 trucks that spew harmful diesel emissions.... Los Angeles authorities believe the low-income drivers cannot afford the new \$100,000 trucks needed to achieve the desired environmental standards.... A spokesman for the American Trucking Association derided the plan as a 'scheme to unionize port drivers' and vowed that his group would sue the port." Los Angeles Times (March 21, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-29-1998]

Press Release. 4 p.
http://www.portoflosangeles.org/News/2008/news_032008ctp.pdf

Boston Consulting presentation. 21 p.
http://www.portoflosangeles.org/Board/2008/March/030608_pres_bcg.pdf

Bureau Recommendation. 11 p.
http://www.portoflosangeles.org/Board/2008/March/032008_item12.pdf
[\[Back to Top\]](#)

"High Levels of Nitryl Chloride in the Polluted Subtropical Marine Boundary Layer." By Hans D. Osthoff and others. IN: Nature Geoscience, doi:10.1038/ngeo177 (April 6, 2008) pp. 324-328

Full text at:

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v1/n5/pdf/ngeo177.pdf;jsessionid=AA76FE4269742A61FFEC62D1BD119623>

["Air pollution in the world's busiest ports and shipping regions may be markedly worse than previously suspected, according to a new study showing that industrial and shipping pollution is exacerbated when it combines with sunshine and salty sea air.... 'It only makes sense that this is a problem everywhere industrial pollution meets the ocean, as is the case in many of the largest cities around the world. It also changes our view of the chemical transformations that occur in ship engine exhaust plumes, and tells us that emissions from marine vessels may be polluting the globe to a greater extent than currently estimated.' said Osthoff" Science Daily (April 14, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2166]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

BEACHES

Heal the Bay Beach Report Card, 2007-08. By Heal the Bay. (Heal the Bay, Santa Monica, California) May 21, 2008. 91 p.

Full text at:

http://www.healthebay.org/assets/pdfdocs/brc/annual/2008/report_web.pdf

["Waters off California's coast are cleaner in dry weather than they've been in years. But although water quality is improving overall statewide, Los Angeles County is home to the most bacteria-laden seawater in California for the third straight year. Half of the 10 foulest shorelines in the state are in Los Angeles County, with the dirtiest water at Avalon Harbor Beach on Santa Catalina Island.... Drier-than-average weather helped keep most ocean waters cleaner; in rainy conditions, however, more than half of Southern California beaches tested fair to poor for traces of fecal bacteria. 'For storm water pollution, we're not doing a good job at all,' said Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay. 'The beaches are just as polluted today during rainstorms as they were 15 years ago.'" Los Angeles Times (May 22, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2261]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity in the United States. By Peter Backlund, National Center for Atmospheric Research, and others. (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC) May 2008.

["The researchers synthesized more than 1,000 studies in what was billed as the most extensive assessment to date of how climate change will affect the country's natural resources.... Climate change offers a few potential positives. Those include longer growing seasons, which can help boost the productivity of pastureland and some crops. But overall, the forecast was grim. They projected an increase in crop failures, the spread of weeds, diminished effectiveness of the herbicide glyphosate, more insect damage to crops and a rise in livestock deaths. Forest and range fires will become more common, soil erosion will increase and signature plants in the Southwest -- including Joshua trees -- could disappear." San Diego Union-Tribune (May 28, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2269]

Report. Various pagings.

http://www.usda.gov/oce/global_change/sap_2007_FinalReport.htm

Executive Summary. 10 p.

http://www.usda.gov/oce/global_change/files/SAP4_3/ExecSummary.pdf

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

"Global and Regional Climate Changes Due to Black Carbon." By V. Ramanathan & G. Carmichael. IN: Nature Geoscience. doi:10.1038/ngeo156. (March 23, 2008) 7 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v1/n4/pdf/ngeo156.pdf>

["Black carbon pollution, or soot, produced by burning wood, coal, cow dung and diesel fuel, may be a much greater contributor to global warming than previously suspected.... Unlike carbon dioxide, which traps solar energy radiating back from Earth's surface, black carbon particles absorb solar radiation as it enters Earth's atmosphere, increasing its heat... The paper concludes that carbon pollution contributes to global warming at a level that is about 60% of carbon dioxide's warming effect, which makes black carbon the second most important contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide... 'The positive side of this discouraging story is we know how to cut down black carbon,' Ramanathan said. 'We have reduced it. So this is something we can do now.'" Los Angeles Times (March 25, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2012]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Hotter and Drier: The West's Changed Climate. By Stephen Saunders, Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, and others. (Natural Resources Defense Council, New York, New York) March 2008.

["The American West is heating up faster than any other region of the United States, and more than the Earth as a whole, according to a new analysis of 50 scientific studies. For the last five years, from 2003 through 2007, the global climate averaged 1 degree Fahrenheit warmer than its 20th century average. During the same period, 11 Western states averaged 1.7 degrees warmer.... In California, with its coastal location, the study showed an increase of 1.1 degrees above the global average over the last five years. Arid interior states experienced rises more than 2 degrees higher than in the world overall.... The data suggest that the trend will accelerate -- with the West warming about 1 1/2 times faster than the global average." Los Angeles Times (March 28, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2037]

Report. 64 p.

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/west/west.pdf>

Fact Sheet. 4 p.

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/west/fwest.pdf>

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Scientific Assessment of the Effects of Global Change on the United States. By the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, National Science and Technology Council. (The Council, Washington, DC) May 2008.

["President Bush's top science advisors issued a comprehensive report that for the first time endorses what most scientific experts have long asserted: that greenhouse gases from fossil fuel combustion 'are very likely the single largest cause' of Earth's warming.... Regions of North America could warm faster over the next few decades than the global average. The warming climate will accelerate the spread of diseases carried by water, food and insects. Among the most vulnerable people are the young, elderly, frail and poor.... The cost of heating is likely to fall, but the increased demand for air conditioning 'would require the building of additional electricity production facilities (and probably transmission facilities) at an estimated cost of many billions of dollars.'" Los Angeles Times (May 30, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2283]

Report. 271 p

<http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/Scientific%20Assessment%20FULL%20Report.pdf>

Executive Summary. 19 p.

<http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/Scientific%20Assessment%20of%20the%20Effects%20of%20Global%20Change%20on%20the%20United%20States.pdf>

Summary and Findings. 4 p.

<http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/Fact%20Sheet%20of%20the%20Assessment.pdf>

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

FISH

"Why Fishing Magnifies Fluctuations in Fish Abundance." By George Sugihara and others. IN: Nature, vol. 452. (April 17, 2008) pp. 835-839.

Full text at: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v452/n7189/abs/nature06851.html>

["Commercial and sport fishing destabilizes fish populations by targeting the biggest, oldest fish and leaving younger fish to proliferate too wildly, researchers said. They said fisheries should in fact encourage the taking of smaller, younger fish instead of requiring that they be thrown back. It's not the young ones that should be thrown back, but the larger, older fish that should be spared. Not only do the older fish provide stability ... to the population, they provide more and better quality offspring. A single large fish will simply grow a little when it gets more food, or lose a little weight when food is scarce. A population of many young, small fish, however, may explode in number or collapse depending on food availability."

Reuters (April 17, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2165]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

FORESTRY

Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture, et al. U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. 07-16892. May 14, 2008. 20 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/BBADBE769F43A66D88257449005521AE/\\$file/0716892.pdf?openelement](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/BBADBE769F43A66D88257449005521AE/$file/0716892.pdf?openelement)

["A court blocked the administration's plans for logging three tracts in the northern Sierra and said the government has failed to justify a critical element in its plan for the forests: selling trees to lumber companies to pay for removing brush that increases the threat of fire.... The court said the U.S. Forest Service has not explored the obvious alternatives: finding the money elsewhere in its budget or asking Congress for more.... The agency increased the scope of logging and the

size of trees to be cut in the forests, up to a diameter of 30 inches, and said it would use proceeds of the timber sales to pay for removal of brush and small trees that fuel fires." San Francisco Chronicle (May 15, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2234]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

"Reconstruction of the Sudden Oak Death Epidemic in California through Microsatellite Analysis of the Pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*." By S. Mascheretti and others. IN: Molecular Ecology, doi:10.1111/j.1365-294X.2008.03773.x (April 25, 2008)

Full text at: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1365-294X.2008.03773.x>

["The pathogen responsible for Sudden Oak Death first got its grip in California's forests outside a nursery in Santa Cruz and at Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County before spreading out to eventually kill millions of oaks and tanoaks along the Pacific Coast... The study also shows that the pathogen is currently evolving in California, with mutant genotypes appearing as new areas are infested.... Interestingly, areas where the Sudden Oak Death infestation are particularly severe are not necessarily the first ones to have become infected. That is why this historical reconstruction based upon genetic analysis is so important; it does not always match the picture of the epidemic one would develop based solely upon observations." Science Daily (April 21, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2192]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

GREEN HOUSE GASES

The Role of Offsets in a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Cap-and-Trade Program: Potential Benefits and Concerns. By Jonathan L. Ramseur, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) April 2008. 39 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34436_20080404.pdf

["An offset is a measurable reduction, avoidance, or sequestration of GHG emissions from a source not covered by an emission reduction program. If allowed, offset projects could generate 'emission credits,' which could be used by a regulated entity to comply with its reduction requirement. Including offsets would likely make an emissions program more cost-effective.... The main concern with offset projects is whether or not they represent real emission reductions. This objective presents challenges, because many offsets are difficult to measure.... Another concern is whether the inclusion of offsets would send the appropriate price signal to encourage the development of long-term mitigation technologies. "]

[Request #S08-29-2167]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Running Out of Time: New U.S. EPA Power Plant Data Shows Greenhouse Gases Rising Steadily. By the Environmental Integrity Project. (The Project, Washington, DC) March 18, 2008. 6 p.

Full text at:

http://www.environmentalintegrity.org/pubs/EIPReport_PowerPlantCO2_March08.pdf

["California ranked among the top 10 states for one-year increases in carbon-dioxide pollution from power plants in 2007. 'I was surprised to see California on the list given the state is a leading advocate of cutting carbon dioxide,' said Eric Schaeffer, director of the non-profit Environmental Integrity Project. The growth in emissions from California power plants -- from 37.8 million tons in 2006 to 42.5 million tons in 2007 -- probably reflects growth in electricity demand in the state, Schaeffer said. Overall, when measuring carbon-dioxide emissions per megawatt hour of electricity generated, California ranks very low - 45th out of the 50 states - data shows. For comparison, California's 42.5 tons in 2007 compared to 262 million tons in Texas and 139 million in Ohio." San Jose Mercury News (March 19, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-1979]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

"Food-Miles and the Relative Climate Impacts of Food Choices in the United States." By Christopher L. Weber and H. Scott Matthews. IN: Environmental Science and Technology, 10.1021/es702969f (April 16, 2008)

Full text at: <http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/abstract.cgi/esthag/asap/abs/es702969f.html>

["Despite the recent popular attention to the distance that food travels from farm to plate, researchers argue that it is dietary choice which most determines a household's food-related climate impacts. The large non-energy based greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing food make food production matter much more than distance traveled. Eating less red meat and/or dairy products may be a more effective way for concerned citizens to lower their food-related climate impacts. They estimate that shifting to an entirely local diet would reduce the equivalent greenhouse gas emissions as driving 1,000 miles, while changing only one day per week's meat and dairy-based calories to chicken, fish, or vegetables would have about the same impact." Science Daily (April 22, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2168]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

MARINE MAMMALS

Southern California Range Complex: Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement. By the Department of the Navy, Pacific Fleet. (The Department, San Diego, California) April 2008.

["After losing a series of lawsuits, the Navy for the first time will release a massive study that examines the potential collateral damage to wildlife when training sailors to use sonar, drop bombs, fire missiles and help Marines storm beaches in Southern California. The study comes after federal judges have repeatedly ruled that the Navy failed to do a proper assessment on how to protect whales and dolphins from sonar used to hunt submarines. The document is likely to be challenged by the California Coastal Commission and environmental groups for failing to recommend adequate environmental safeguards, state officials and lawyers said." Los Angeles Times (April 4, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2093]

Environmental Impact Statement. Various pagings.

<http://www.socalrangecomplexeis.com/>

Executive Summary. 32 p.

<http://www.socalrangecomplexeis.com/Documents/Executive%20Summary.pdf>

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

NATIONAL PARKS

Friends of Yosemite Valley, et al. v. Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior. U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. 07-15124. March 27, 2008. 28 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/BCABDF4F5FB55684882574180082FA48/\\$file/0715124.pdf?openelement](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/BCABDF4F5FB55684882574180082FA48/$file/0715124.pdf?openelement)

["A court threw a roadblock in the path of the government's restoration and development plans for Yosemite National Park, ruling that the National Park Service has failed to take adequate steps to protect the Merced River.... The case split environmentalists. The plaintiffs said the government's plans would lead to commercialization of the park and turn it into a playground mainly for wealthy lodgers, people driving recreational vehicles and visitors arriving in tour buses... Other environmental groups sided with the Park Service, saying the ruling would hinder protection of the river by delaying implementation of a management plan." San Francisco Chronicle (March 28, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2038]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

OCEAN RESOURCES

"Evidence for Upwelling of Corrosive 'Acidified' Water onto the Continental Shelf." By Richard A. Feely and others. IN: Science, DOI: 10.1126/science.1155676 (May 22, 2008)

Full text at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/1155676>

["Carbon dioxide spewed by human activities has made ocean water so acidic that it is eating away at the shells and skeletons of starfish, coral, clams and other sea creatures. Marine researchers knew that ocean acidification was occurring in deep water far from land. What they called 'truly astonishing' was the appearance of this damaging phenomenon on the Pacific North American continental shelf.... The acidic waters are coming up onto the continental shelf because of a long-term churning ocean pattern that moves cold deep water up toward the surface. The carbon-loaded waters that are now near the US West Coast took about 50 years to get there.... Even if we were to stop instantaneously the current rate of rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the corrosivity of these upwelling waters would increase for the next 50 years." Reuters (May 23, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2278]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

An Assessment of Two Decades of Contaminant Monitoring in the Nation's Coastal Zone. By K.L. Kimbrough and others, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (The Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland) 2008. 118 p.

Full text at: <http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/about/coast/nsandt/welcome.html>

["NOAA scientists have released a 20-year study showing that environmental laws enacted in the 1970s are having a positive effect on reducing overall contaminant levels in coastal waters of the U.S. However, the report points to continuing concerns with elevated levels of metals and organic contaminants found near urban and industrial areas of the coasts... The findings are the result of monitoring efforts that analyze 140 different chemicals in U.S. coastal and estuarine areas, including the Great Lakes... The program also quantifies contaminants that are still entering the nation's waters and two major groups raise concern: oil related compounds from motor vehicles and shipping activities; and flame retardants known as PBDEs" Science Daily (May 12, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2248]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

OPEN SPACE

Conservation Through the Ballot Box: Using Local Referenda to Preserve Open Space. By H. Spencer Banzhaf and others. IN: *Land Lines*, vol. 20, no. 2 (April 2008) pp. 8 - 13.

Full text at:

http://www.lincolnst.edu/pubs/dl/1360_681_Cons%20Ballot%20Box.pdf

["The conservation movement has used both private enterprises and public programs to preserve lands of ecological, aesthetic, and historical value. One notably successful effort has employed referenda for the conservation of open space. Between 1998 and 2006, some 1,550 referenda appeared on state, county, and municipal ballots across the United States, and their success rate was very high: nearly 80 percent of these measures passed, many by a wide margin.... The U.S. experience with referenda for conservation purposes, especially their striking success rate, raises some intriguing questions. Can we draw some generalizations from these local referenda concerning what people want in the way of open space preservation?"]

[Request #S08-29-1996]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

PESTICIDES

"The Herbicide Atrazine Activates Endocrine Gene Networks via Non-Steroidal NR5A Nuclear Receptors in Fish and Mammalian Cells." By Miyuki Suzawa and Holly A. Ingraham. IN: *Public Library of Science One*, vol. 3, no. 5 (May 7, 2008) e2117.

Full text at:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002117>

["A common weedkiller in the U.S., already suspected of causing sexual abnormalities in frogs and fish, has now been found to alter hormonal signaling in human cells. The herbicide atrazine is the second most widely used weedkiller in the U.S.. It was banned in Europe after studies linked the chemical to endocrine disruptions in fish and amphibians. Atrazine increased the activity of a gene associated with abnormal human birth weight. Atrazine also targeted a second gene that has been found to be amplified in the uterus of women with unexplained infertility.... That a pervasive and persistent environmental chemical appears to significantly change hormone networks means that scientists must take a broader look at its potential effect on human health." *Science Daily* (May 8, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2222]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

TOXICS

Regulating Emerging Technologies in Silicon Valley and Beyond. By the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. (The Coalition, San Jose, California) April 2008. 34 p.

Full text at: [http://www.etoixics.org/messages/SVTC_Nanotech_Report\(April-2008\).pdf](http://www.etoixics.org/messages/SVTC_Nanotech_Report(April-2008).pdf)

["In an industrial gold rush that mirrors the semiconductor and biotech booms, Silicon Valley is rapidly emerging as the center for a host of new nanotechnologies. Nanotech is more than a single new industrial sector: It is transforming fields as diverse as electronics, medicine, environmental remediation, and solar energy, and it is already ubiquitous in a wide range of consumer products.... This report provides a case study of the regulatory landscape faced by Santa Clara County in the 1980s and traces the clear and alarming parallels to today's health and environmental regulations for nanotechnology. The paper concludes by outlining recommendations for policy reform based on closing existing gaps in data, technology, and safety."]
[Request #S08-29-2223]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

WATER QUALITY

Water Boards Baseline Enforcement Report: Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007: Draft. By the Office of Enforcement, California State Water Resources Control Board. (The Office, Sacramento, California) March 28, 2007. 101 p.

Full text at:
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/baseline/draft_baseline_enforcement.pdf

["Agencies charged with protecting California's water quality are inconsistently enforcing the law and levying fines that have not increased since 1984. Environmentalists have long complained that the State Water Resources Control Board and nine other regional boards are not properly safeguarding water quality. While not as prominent as other government branches, these boards investigate thousands of violations -- some in paperwork, others toxic discharges into creeks and streams. The boards take a key role in protecting water bodies such as the Delta. The report, open for public comment, was requested by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2007." Stockton Record (April 7, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-29-2094]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

International Boundary and Water Commission: Two Alternatives for Improving Wastewater Treatment at the United States-Mexico Border. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-595R. (The Office, Washington, DC) April 24, 2008. 66 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08595r.pdf>

["A much-anticipated report about reducing sewage pollution in southern San Diego County failed to deliver a clear recommendation and led to calls for more study of a problem that has plagued the region for decades. The GAO spent about four months reviewing two options for cleaning up wastewater that's treated only partially at a federal plant in San Ysidro.... The U.S. section of the International Boundary and Water Commission is under court order to improve sewage treatment at its San Ysidro plant by Sept. 30, a deadline that it cannot meet. Proposed upgrades for the San Ysidro plant would cost far less over 20 years than a competing proposal to build a treatment plant in Tijuana, the GAO said." San Diego Union-Tribune (April 25, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2184]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

WATER RESOURCES

Urban Drought Guidebook: 2008 Updated Edition. By the California Department of Water Resources. (The Department, Sacramento. California) 2008. 207 p.

Full text at: <http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/UrbanDroughtGuide.pdf>

["There are new opportunities for addressing water shortages since the 1990s. Widespread use of the Internet allows for information sharing and communication to a level unimagined in previous decades. New technology allows for more efficient use of water, from commercial cooling towers to smart irrigation controllers. Regional alliances have been established, often on a formal basis, to coordinate water supply and demand management efforts. This guide will help water managers facing water shortages by showing them how to use tried and true methods of the past as well as making use of new tools and methods."]

[Request #S08-29-2147]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

WEATHER

"Simulated Reduction in Atlantic Hurricane Frequency under Twenty-First-Century Warming Conditions." By Thomas R. Knutson and others. IN: Nature Geoscience, doi:10.1038/ngeo202. (May 18, 2008) 6 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v1/n6/pdf/ngeo202.pdf>

["Global warming isn't to blame for the recent jump in hurricanes in the Atlantic, concludes a study by a prominent federal scientist whose position has shifted on the subject. Not only that, warmer temperatures will actually reduce the number of hurricanes in the Atlantic and those making landfall... What makes this study different is Knutson, a meteorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fluid dynamics lab. He has warned about the harmful effects of climate change and has even complained in the past about being censored by the Bush administration on studies on the dangers of global warming.... The study predicts that by the end of the century the number of hurricanes in the Atlantic will fall by 18 percent." Associated Press (May 18, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2251]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

WILDFIRES

After Action Report: Santiago Fire: October 21 - November 9, 2007. By the Orange County Fire Authority. (The Authority, Irvine, California) March 2008. 138 p.

Full text at: http://www.ocfa.org/uploads/pdf/aar_3-27-08.pdf

["A report shows Orange County firefighters didn't have enough resources to deal with the 28,000-acre Santiago blaze that destroyed 42 structures during the fall Southern California wildfire siege. Only two Vietnam-era water-dropping helicopters were available to fight the wind-whipped blaze on Oct. 21. The after-action assessment also says its fire engines were staffed below national standards and it was difficult to find help elsewhere because nine other wildfires were being fought in the region. The Santiago fire raged untamed for 19 days. The Orange County Fire Authority approved \$14.1 million for additional staffing and equipment." Associated Press (March 28, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2097]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

TRANSPORTATION

AIRLINES

Aviation and the Environment: NextGen and Research and Development Are Keys to Reducing Emissions and Their Impact on Health and Climate. Testimony of Gerald L. Dillingham, Government Accountability Office, before the Subcommittee on Aviation, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives. GAO-08-706T. (The Office, Washington, DC) May 6, 2008. 41 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08706t.pdf>

["Aviation contributes a modest but growing proportion of total U.S. emissions, and these emissions contribute to adverse health and environmental effects....Two key federal efforts, if implemented effectively, can help to reduce aviation emissions -- NextGen initiatives in the near term and research and development over the longer term. For example, NextGen technologies and procedures, such as satellite-based navigation systems, should allow for more direct routing, which could improve fuel efficiency and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Federal research and development efforts -- led by FAA and NASA in collaboration with industry and academia -- have achieved significant reductions in aircraft emissions through improved aircraft and engine technologies."]
[Request #S08-29-2219]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

Cycling in the Netherlands. By the Netherlands' Ministry of Transport, Public Works, and Water Management. (The Ministry, The Hague, Netherlands) 2007. 35 p.

Full text at:
<http://www.fietsberaad.nl/library/repository/bestanden/Cycling%20in%20the%20Netherlands%20VenW.pdf>

["A consistent approach by Dutch policy makers to the bicycle has had a demonstrable effect. Municipalities which have had a focused bicycle policy for some time have a higher bicycle share than other cities. Traffic safety has also benefited from the bicycle policy. This chapter outlines the Dutch approach. How does the bicycle policy come about? Which parties are involved in it and what is the link between the funding of policy and its implementation? Involvement at various governmental levels (state, provinces, city areas, water boards and municipalities) is also considered. Firstly, however, the objectives of bicycle policy are reviewed. Why do the Dutch authorities invest money and manpower in bicycle policy?"]
[Request #S08-29-2098]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

DRIVERS

Statistical Analysis of Alcohol-Related Driving Trends, 1982-2005. By Jennifer N. Dang, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (The Administration, Washington, DC) May 2008. 72 p.

Full text at: http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=9093

["The number of fatal crashes that involved drivers who had been drinking at the time of the crash has decreased during the past two decades.... Tireless efforts were made in the last 20 years through legislative enactments and programs that were funded by States, communities, and private organizations to deter impaired driving... The leveling off of the alcohol-related driving trend raised questions as to whether these alcohol programs are still as effective in deterring impaired driving as they were before.... This study examines; 1) why they steadily decreased from 1982 to 1997 and why they leveled off after that period; and 2) assess the effects of alcohol programs that directly and indirectly changed public attitudes and behavior toward drinking and driving during the last 20 years."]

[Request #S08-29-2383]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

DRIVERS

The Older Driver in Oregon: A Survey of Driving Behavior and Cessation. By Margaret B. Neal and others, Portland State University. Prepared for the Oregon Department of Transportation. (The Department, Salem, Oregon) March 2008. 159 p.

Full text at:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP_RES/docs/Reports/2008/Older_Driver_in_Oregon.pdf

["The report explores the travel patterns of older adults in Oregon. The report examines factors that influence driving cessation; the physical and emotional barriers that delay driving cessation; the opportunities that exist for alternative transportation after driving cessation; and whether drivers make relocation decisions on the basis of driving cessation. The report also reviews the warning signs that make a driver stop driving, and examines whether a crisis situation generally forces a driver to stop driving." TRB Newsletter (May 20, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-29-2345]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

FINANCING

Financing Transportation in the 21st Century: An Intergovernmental Perspective. By the Intergovernmental Forum on Transportation Finance. Convened by the National Academy of Public Administration on behalf of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Consortium. (The Academy, Washington, DC) January 2008. 116 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ncsl.org/print/standcomm/sctran/NAPAreport0108.pdf>

["Present financing mechanisms consist of a complex set of federal, state, and local revenue sources, federal and state aid programs, and public-private partnerships. These financial arrangements are no longer sufficient to maintain existing facilities and services, or to meet changing demands and improve services to people and businesses. Revenues and investments have not kept pace with growing and shifting populations, inflation, changing technologies, evolving patterns of travel, current trends in globalization, and new policies that address energy conservation and environmental protection.... The purpose of this Forum report is to provide a more fully developed intergovernmental perspective on options being considered for strengthening the nation's transportation finances."]

[Request #S08-29-2021]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Assessing Federal Employment Accessibility Policy: An Analysis of the JARC Program. By Thomas W. Sanchez, Brookings Institution, and Lisa Schweitzer, University of Southern California. (The Institution, Washington, DC) February 2008. 20 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/0221_transportation_sanchez/0221_transportation_sanchez.pdf

["In the 1960s, efforts to increase mobility and job access in impoverished communities were designed largely to quell social unrest rather than explicitly address social exclusion in the interests of economic justice.... This paper considers a 40-year span of federal policy toward transportation mobility for low-income workers, including the most recent Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program... Employment accessibility studies from the 1960s through the early 2000s consistently characterize the situation facing low-income workers in simplistic terms that primarily stress the travel connection to jobs, largely ignoring nonwork travel and other household needs. This myopic view also informs federal policy, which stresses work-related travel."]

[Request #S08-29-2088]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Understanding How Individuals Make Travel and Location Decisions: Implications for Public Transportation. By Karla H. Karash, TranSystems Corporation, and others. (Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC) March 2008. 147 p.

Full text at: http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp_rpt_123.pdf

["Because residential location and travel behavior have a large effect on society's consumption of energy, on levels of pollution, and on health, there is great value in increasing our understanding of the mechanism of mode choice. While the transportation community has considerable experience in using rational economic models of decision making in exploring residential and travel choice, there is less research into decision-making models from other fields such as sociology, psychology, and marketing research. This research project explored an approach from the field of psychology that adds valuable perspective to understanding behavior."]

[Request #S08-29-2090]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Challenge: Moving the U.S. Economy. By Cambridge Systematics, Inc.. Prepared for the National Chamber Foundation. (U.S. Chamber of Congress, Washington, DC) 2008. 120 p.

Full text at:

http://www.uschamber.com/NR/rdonlyres/e6kv6kzmntqhxyqnb7zjz7git3g6zghebakmjethyo7kl255paebokys4qehr4jnpluaq5ljyefozhigywmrnqjgngf/0804trans_challenge.pdf

["The report explores the linkages between the capacity and performance of the nation's transportation system and U.S. economic productivity, competitiveness, and growth. The report also highlights the manner in which the United States and global economies are changing, how different sectors of the economy depend on transportation, the increasing demands these industry sectors are putting on intermodal transportation systems, and how present-day transportation systems are performing in response to these new demands." TRB Newsletter (April 22, 2008)

1.]

[Request #S08-29-2191]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)